PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

New York Academy of Sciences.—At the meeting of the Biological Section, Nov. 14, Prof. H. F. Osborn was elected chairman, and Bashford Dean secretary. The papers of the evening were:

Arthur Hollick, On Additions to the Palæobotany of the Cretaceous of Staten Island. These include about forty species not previously recorded from eastern North America, although in part described as occurring in the cretaceous of Greenland and in the Laramie. About fifteen new species were recorded, representing *Populus, Platanus, Myrica, Kalmia, Acer* and *Williamsonia.* The fossils were in the main taken from fire-brick clay. H. F. Osborn, Report Upon a Collection of Mammals from the Cretaceous (Laramie). The multituberculates *Meniscoëssus* and *Ptilodus* were assigned to the Plagiaulacidæ, the former a probable ancestor of *Polymastodon.* The relations of these mammals were shown to be closer to Puerco than to upper Jurassic forms. Arthur Willey, On the Significance of the Pituitary Body, suggesting from studies on Ascidians and Amphioxus a primitive monorhinic condition in vertebrates. The nasal sac of Petromyzon is of secondary nature, as shown by development (Dohrn) and nerve supply, but the nose in the monorhinic ancestor of vertebrates was the pituitary body of existing forms, this being represented in Ascidia, as shown by Julin, by the sub-neural gland and its duct, and in Amphioxus by the so-called olfactory pit. The pituitary body is to the lateral nares what the pineal body is to lateral eyes.

Bashford Dean exhibited an entire *Ctadodus,* a unique specimen recently collected in the Cleveland shales. The tail is for the first time shown, and indicates historically the origin of the ray parts of this organ in modern elasmobranchs.

Nebraska Academy of Sciences.—The annual meeting was held December 26 and 27, at Lincoln. Prof. Bessey was Chairman and Prof. A. H. Van Vleet, of Peru, Secretary and Treasurer. The following papers were read:

Psychology a Science, Dr. D. R. Dungan; Evidences of two Premorainic Glacial Movements, Prof. G. D. Sweezey; Evolution of the Loup Rivers, Dr. L. E. Hicks; Some Notes on the Fringillidæ of Nebraska, D. A. Haggard; The Myriapoda of Nebraska, F. C. Kenyon; The Canyon Flora of Northwest Nebraska, A. F. Woods; Notes

on the Flora of the Black Hills of South Dakota, P. A. Rydberg; Notes on Nebraska Phosphates, H. E. Fulmer; Some Notes on Mineral Water from Odell, Nebraska, Rosa Bouton; Systems of Notation in Numbers, Dr. H. E. Hitchcock; The Flora of Long Pine Canyon, Julius Conklin; The Flora of the Sand Hills, Roscoe Pound; A New Miocene Rodent, Prof. E. H. Barbour; The Fishes of Nebraska, M. E. O'Brien; Descriptions of Some New Nebraska Orthoptera, L. Bruner; Catalogue of the Orthoptera of Nebraska, L. Bruner; Notes on the Composition of the Lincoln City Gas Supply, Prof. H. H. Nicholson; The Relationship of the Nebraska Flora to That of the Regions Further West, H. S. Clason; The Erysipheæ of Crete, W. H. Skinner; The Fresh-Water Algæ of Kearney County, Nebraska, Dr. H. Hapeman; Some Mexican Lichens, Prof. T. A. Williams.

Boston Society of Natural History.—November 16.—The following paper was read: The Origin of Drumlins, Mr. Warren Upham; Profs. Shaler and Davis also spoke on the Origin of Drumlins.

December 7.—The following papers were read: Some Indian Quarries in Arkansas, Mr. Leon S. Griswold; Notes on a New Order of Schizomycetes (Bacteria). Specimens were shown with both papers.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary.*

The Biological Society of Washington.—November 19.—The following communications were read: On Certain Minute (parasitic?) Bodies Within the Red Blood Corpuscles, Dr. Theobald Smith; The Topographical Relations of the Excretory Canals of Cestodes, Dr. C. W. Stiles; A Walchia from New Mexico, Mr. David White; Some Entomological Factors in the Problem of Country Fences, Mr. F. M. Webster; Comparative Value of Plants in Determining Floral Zones, Mr. F. V. Coville.

December 3.—The following communications were read: The Cruise of the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross in Alaskan Waters in 1892, Prof. B. W. Evermann; Some New Grasses, Dr. George Vasey; On the Rediscovery of Certain Rare Plants, Mr. J. N. Rose; Exhibition of a Complete Series of the Large American Ground Squirrels of the Subgenus Otospermophilus, Dr. C. Hart Merriam; The Mathematics of Forest Growth, Dr. B. E. Fernow.

FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Secretary.*

Anthropological Society of Washington.—November 15.—The following papers were read: Singular Copper Objects from

Ancient Mounds in Ohio, Mr. Warren K. Moorhead; Geographic Nomenclature of the District and Vicinity, a Symposium, Mr. James Mooney, Prof. Lester F. Ward, Mr. W. H. Holmes, Mr. W. Hallet Phillips, Mr. W. H. Babcock, and Dr. Frank Baker.

WESTON FLINT, *Secretary.*

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Prof. John S. Newberry, Professor of Geology in Columbia College, New York, died at New Haven, December 7. He was born at Windsor, Conn., in 1822, and was the descendant of an old and distinguished Puritan family. He was graduated from Western Reserve College in 1846, and from Cleveland Medical College in 1848. After two years' travel and study in Europe he established himself as a physician in Cleveland. He returned to his scientific studies, which had long been in abeyance, in 1855, when he accepted an appointment as acting assistant surgeon in the army, and accompanied, as surgeon and geologist, the expedition under Lieutenant R. S. Williamson, U. S. A., which explored the territory lying between San Francisco and the Columbia River. In 1857–'58 he was attached, in the same capacity, to the expedition under Lieutenant J. C. Ives, U. S. A., which made the first exploration of the Colorado River, one of the most important of the western territory surveys. Dr. Newberry, in 1859, participated in the exploration of the country bordering the upper Colorado and San Juan Rivers. During the war of the rebellion Dr. Newberry was a member of the United States Sanitary Commission, and directed its operations in the Valley of the Mississippi. In 1866 he was appointed professor of geology in the School of Mines, Columbia College. In 1869 he was appointed head of the reorganized Ohio Geological Survey, and under his direction the work was vigorously pushed to completion.

Prof. Newberry had probably seen more of the United States from a professional point of view than any other of our geologists. He will be best known from his work on fossil plants and fossil fishes. He was especially conscientious in his comparisons of American with European forms of extinct life that came under his observation. Personally he was of a rather impetuous temperament, whose strong friendships were offset by a spice of irascibility without malice. He will be greatly missed from his place in the scientific life of America.